

[Ahwatukee Foothills News](#)

*Editor's note: This is a letter sent by Congressman Harry Mitchell (D) to Dennis Smith, director of the Maricopa Association of Governments, which is responsible for freeway planning in the Valley.*

Dear Mr. Smith:

I read with concern in this morning's *Arizona Republic* that the Maricopa Association of Governments (MAG) is now considering construction of an eight-lane freeway through Ahwatukee and the South Mountain preserve.

As you know, I am opposed to construction of a new freeway through Ahwatukee.

While I understand the need for an I-10 bypass to enable cross-country traffic to move through our metropolitan area without snarling traffic in downtown Phoenix, I believe we must explore alternatives before considering a new freeway through Ahwatukee. In addition to discussions with the Gila River Indian Community, I believe we need to consider the impact that construction of a future Hassayampa Freeway would have on congestion alleviation.

As a member of the House Transportation and Infrastructure Committee's Subcommittee on Highways and Transit, I am eager to work with you on this issue.

Thank you for your assistance.

Sincerely,

Harry E. Mitchell

Member of Congress